



BACKYARD CHICKEN FAQ

SPRING 2016

May I keep backyard hens on my property?

Properties that are greater than 7,200 square feet and are zoned RA, RA-G, RH, RH-G, RF, RF-G, RF-O, or RF-SS are allowed to keep chickens; as long as the hens are registered with the City of Surrey and all Zoning and Chicken Bylaw requirements are followed. Chickens are not permitted on stratified lots, or lots containing multifamily dwellings or Mobile Home Parks. Agricultural zoned lots greater than 5 Acres in size may keep chickens without the need or registering them with the city.

How many chickens may I keep on my single family residential property?

A resident of a single family dwelling may keep a maximum of:

- 12 head of poultry per acre, on RA Zoned lots greater than 1 Acre but less than 5 Acres; or
- 4 hens per lot, on single family zoned lots greater than 7,200 square feet but less than 1 Acre.

How do I register my Chickens?

Those interested in keeping chickens (on lots less than 1 Acre), must first register their property with the City of Surrey by submitting a Registration Form. Registration is free, but mandatory. There are four options for submitting your Backyard Hen Registration, including:

1. [Online Form](http://www.surrey.ca/community/13805.aspx) from city of Surrey website: www.surrey.ca/community/13805.aspx
2. Mailing a registration form to: Backyard Hens, Bylaws and Licensing Services Division, City of Surrey 13450 104 Avenue, V3T 1V8.
3. Emailing a digital PDF or scanned copy of your registration to: backyardhens@surrey.ca
4. Dropping off your registration in person at the Surrey Bylaws and Licensing Office, located Surrey City hall at 13450 104 Avenue.

A Provincial Premises Identification (BCPID) Program number is also required in order to register with the City. A Ministry of Agriculture BCPID application form is available online at: www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram



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Where on our property may we keep chickens?

Every building (Coop) or enclosure used to accommodate chickens must be:

- located within the rear yard of the lot behind a dwelling;
- a minimum 3.0 meters (9.8 feet) from a dwelling;
- a minimum 1.2 meters (3.0 feet) from any lot line;
- a minimum 3.0 meters (9.8 feet) from a flanking street.

Are roosters allowed in the residential areas of Surrey?

No, roosters are not allowed within Surrey residential zones (lots less than 5 Acres).

Are people allowed to slaughter chickens on their property?

No, slaughtering of chickens in your backyard is not permitted. Hens at the end of their life will need to be taken to a veterinarian, farm, livestock auction or abattoir.

Are people allowed to sell the eggs from their property?

No, eggs produced by backyard hens are for personal use only (lots less than 5 Acres).

What do I do with organic matter 'manure' from Backyard Chickens?

Organic matter 'manure' from backyard chickens may be composted on site for private use in gardens and/or disposed of in city organic carts provided that the manure is appropriately contained within a Kraft paper bag. If complaints are received by the city for excess odors and smells, the city may contact the owner to ensure appropriate practices are in place. Manure may not be sold for commercial purposes.

Do chickens need to be kept in the Coop at all times?

Yes, a person who keeps Urban Chickens must keep each Hen in the Coop at all times, and keep the coop secured from sunset to sunrise.

How will hens be protected from inhumane acts?

Owners must comply with City Animal Control bylaw standards, as well as Provincial and Federal standards for care. The BC Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act also ensures the humane treatment of animals and outlines the powers of their offices, rights of seizure and disposal or sale of animals taken into custody. Reporting of inhumane acts against animals is the responsibility of each of us in our society. Owners should educate themselves on proper maintenance care for Chickens. Owners may wish review resources on urban chickens attached to this FAQ guide as a first step.



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Who should a Surrey resident contact in the case they have a complaint about a neighbour keeping chickens?

If you are concerned about backyard chickens in violation of bylaw regulations, contact Surrey By-Law Enforcement and Licensing Animal Control at 604-591-4370 to register a chicken related complaint. Animal Resource Centre (formerly the Surrey Animal Shelter or Pound) at 604-574-6622 may also be able to help chicken owners with such concerns as:

- Pests, insects, or wildlife drawn by the backyard chickens;
- Noise or smell from the chickens;
- Chickens that are injured, abandoned, stray / at large, or neglected;
- The owner is not registered for Backyard Chicken Pilot Program;
- The number of chickens exceeds guidelines or Roosters are being kept;
- The chickens are not being cared for according to the Pilot Project Guidelines

How will public health be protected in connection with health risks from chickens?

The following Federal and Provincial Legislation provide standards and guidelines related to health and safety. These acts give Senior, Regional, or Local Government authorities the tools to gather information, inspect, and require mitigation.

Federal Government - Health of Animals Act - 1990, c. 21 - This Act outlines steps that may be taken by inspectors in the case where diseases (e.g. avian flu) or toxic substances are suspected of being on a site that may affect animals or that may be transmitted by animals to persons. Prohibitions in this act include: concealment, keeping diseased animals and selling or disposing of diseased animals.

<http://lawslois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/H-3.3/>

Canadian Food Inspection Agency - The agency develops and delivers programs and services designed to protect Canadians from preventable food safety hazards and ensure that food safety emergencies are effectively managed and that the public is aware of--and contribute to--food safety through administration of the Federal Act such as Canadian Agricultural Products Act, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act & Feeds Act. - www.inspection.gc.ca/

The BC Government - provides useful Fact Sheets on different subjects regarding Best Management Practices - www.al.gov.bc.ca/poultry/factsheets.htm



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BC Provincial Public Health Act - Provides health officers the authority to order preventative measures to control a health hazard (e.g. Avian Flu outbreak)
www.health.gov.bc.ca/phact/

BC Provincial Animal Disease Control Act - Veterinarians and Physicians are obligated to report known or suspected animals or persons that are suffering from or have died from a communicable disease. www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ministry/legsum/ADCO.stm

BC Integrated Pest Management Act - This Act mainly regulates pesticide use, but also gives authority to the Minister to order an Integrated Pest Management Plan for managing pest populations (including rats and insects) and reduce damage caused by pests. www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/ipmp/publications/index.htm

BC Environmental Management Act - The Ministry of Environment regulates issues regarding organic matter (manure) and recycling for larger retail grade practices through this act.

Resources for Backyard Chicken Owners

The City provides this resource list for convenience only. The City does not intend for this resource list to be exhaustive, and the City does not have any knowledge and makes no representations and give no warranties as to the suitability, quality or accuracy of any information, products or services in any way published or publicized directly or indirectly through the sites listed here.

General Resources

- Backyard Chickens www.backyardchickens.com
- My Pet Chicken www.mypetchicken.com/about-chickens
- Backyard Poultry Magazine www.backyardpoultrymag.com
- Chicken Keeping Secrets www.chickenkeepingsecrets.com
- Poultry One Backyard Chickens Site <http://poultryone.com/raisingchickens.php>
- Urban Chickens <http://urbanchickens.org>
- The City Chicken <http://home.centurytel.net/thecitychicken>
- The Poultry Site <http://www.thepoultrysite.com>
- The Chicken Whisperer <http://www.chickenwhisperer.net/index.html>

Local Resources

- Daily Eggs www.dailyeggs.com
- Farm Folk/City Folk www.ffcf.bc.ca
- City Farmer www.cityfarmer.info
- Fraser Valley Poultry Fanciers Association www.fvpfa.org
- Fraser Valley Auction www.fraservalleyauction.com



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